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LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, a letter dated 19 March 1993 by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Hrvoje Sarinic, addressed to you.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 March 1993 from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia addressed to the Secretary-General

May I inform you about the difficult situation in the Republic of Croatia in terms of power supply which is insufficient to meet the basic needs of some 700,000 people in Dalmatia (southern Croatia) and inadequate to provide for over 200,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina given shelter in that part of Croatia. The terrorist act of mining the Peruča Dam by Serbian paramilitary units, coupled with the driest season in these parts over the past 40 years, has resulted in a shortage of electric power affecting the whole area of south Croatia, jeopardizing thus the economy of the entire region and endangering the subsistence of its residents and refugees alike. The supply system in the area is currently being cut off for 15 hours every day, with a gloomy prospect of this period to be extended to 20 hours a day, should a solution not be found.

The Republic of Croatia signed a Protocol with the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the power supply to Croatia from the Tuzla and Kakanj TEPPs. Due to the war situation, however, Bosnia and Herzegovina is unable to meet these requirements for the time being.

Because these efforts are aimed at providing the inhabitants of Dalmatia and the refugees there with electric energy, as well as at preventing a total collapse of the economy, hence a threat to the survival of the population, this action is obviously a humanitarian one, and in full compliance with international humanitarian law. To this end, I have forwarded a letter to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Commander-in-Chief, General Lars Eric Wahlgren appealing for UNPROFOR support in its implementation.

As this action is strictly humanitarian, may I ask, Your Excellency, for your personal support of the attempts at providing the region of Dalmatia with the necessary energy. By courtesy of the members of the Croatian Permanent Mission to the United Nations and General Wahlgren, you will be duly informed about concrete steps taken.

Hrvoje ŠARINIĆ
Prime Minister